

HOUSE RESOLUTION 255

By Davis (Cocke)

A RESOLUTION to honor the valiant and meritorious service rendered by those citizens of Greene County from the Midway postal route during World War II and commend the rededication ceremony for the Midway World War II Memorial to be held on April 27, 2002.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the cataclysmic world conflict known as World War II, the people of the Midway community in Greene County, like the citizens of the rest of our nation, had seen family members, friends and neighbors go off to battle, some never to return; in 1945 a candle lighting service was held to honor those who had served, and the Reverend C. G. Mikes, pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, suggested a more permanent memorial; and

WHEREAS, the congregation immediately approved the idea, committees were formed and a fund-raising campaign was held; the men of Midway erected a monument and a flagpole

leading to a dedication service on September 26, 1945, just 24 days after the Japanese surrender; and

WHEREAS, the hundreds of people who assembled for the dedication heard T. Elmer Cox, then a Lieutenant in the Tennessee State Guard, and now an industrial representative for Greeneville Light and Power, give an address on the meaning of the dedicated service rendered by those being honored; the names of 74 men were listed on the monument, all but one of whom, Paul Myers, returned to this country alive; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, April 27, 2002, a rededication ceremony will be held at the memorial with the participation of, among others, Greene County Executive Alan D. Broyles; the Reverend Cloyd Kirk, Baptist Minister and WW II veteran; Judge Ben Wexler, State Representative Ronnie E. Davis, State Representative Zane Whitson; State Senator Tommy Haun, Congressman Bill Jenkins, and special guests Tony and Patsy Myers, children of Paul Myers, killed in action at Suhl, Germany; and

WHEREAS, the memorial was initially erected to honor those from the "Midway postal route" who served in World War II, and the original list of 74 names has been expanded to include others inadvertently left off; and

WHEREAS, those brave Tennesseans so honored include living veterans Orville Blazer, Claude Cansler, Billy D. Cobble, Calvin Cobble, Paul Lee, Eugene Kesterson, James Cansler, Robert W. Ricker, T.J. Rader, Ralph Hogan, John G. Wisecarver, Sylvan Lowery, Ernie Cobble, Cloyd Kirk, Harold Lee Cansler, Dale Beach, U. M. Clemmer, Frank Beach, Leonard Cobble, L. B. Bible, Harrison Kirk, and C. L. Hybarger; and

WHEREAS, those valiant men who have passed on include Lloyd Beach, Bruce Beach, J. W. Blazer, Raymond Cobble, Bradson Guinn, James Hogan, Bobby Hybarger, Ira Kesterson, Jr., Arlen Lonas, Homer Lowe, Carmel Lowe, Fred Pitts, L. V. Rader, Ross Ricker, Clarence Ragan, Charlie Smith, Junior Snapp, George Wampler, Glenn Kesterson, Billy G. Knipp, Walter D. Bowers, Jake Solomon, Charles O. Beach, Sam Beach, Harrell Black, Willard Carter, George Cobble, Alvie Hogan, Joe Harmon, Cain Haun, Powell Linebarger, Roman Lowe, Orbin Lowe,

Dude Lowe, James Pierce, A.J. Ricker, Jr., James Ragan, Emil Ramsey, Albert Solomon, Vernon Thomas, Maurice Lee, Frank Keicher, Fred M. Hawkins, James Lee, Ralph D. Solomon, Sr., Babe Beach, Jerald Beach, Walter Blazer, George Clemmer, Charles Foshie, L. D. Hogan, John Hybarger, Charles Idell, Billy Joe Lane, Bill Lowe, George Lowe, Paul Myers, Luke Rader, Frank Ricker, Lloyd Ragan, Martin Smith, Howard Sheffey, Edward Thomas, Coy J. Knipp, Blain Keicher, Jake Stephens, Joseph C. Bible, Elmer Lyons, and Clyde Willis Broyles, Sr.; other names are to be added; and

WHEREAS, the occasion of the rededication of this, the first permanent memorial erected in this nation to honor members of the United State Armed Forces serving in World War II, is an appropriate opportunity to once again express our appreciation to these and all Americans who have fought to defend our liberty and way of life; in honoring the sacrifices of these valiant citizen-soldiers, sailors and airmen, we are reminded of the cost of preserving that which we hold dear; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to join with the people of Midway, Greene County and the state of Tennessee to remember and honor the valiant service rendered by those honored at this rededication ceremony; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor the valiant service to our country rendered by the brave Tennesseans from the Midway postal route who served in World War II and commend the citizens of Midway and Greene County as they rededicate the monument erected during the summer of 1945.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.